

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Please Post

Activity: Fire Chiefs' Meeting

Date: September 15, 2011

Organizations Represented: Public Safety Administration
Company 3/Ferrum Fire
Company 4/Glade Hill Fire
Company 5/Callaway Fire
Company 6/Snow Creek Fire
Company 7/Boones Mill Fire
Company 9/Burnt Chimney Fire
Company 10/Scruggs Fire
Company 11/Smith Mountain Lake Fire
Company 13/Cool Branch Fire
Company 14/Henry Fire
Franklin County Communications – E911

Organizations Not Represented: Department 1/Rocky Mount Fire
Company 8/Fork Mountain Fire
Company 12/Hardy Fire

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: Please find below a summary of the topics that were discussed and relevant information regarding those topics. If you have any questions, please contact your Fire Chief for details.

- The meeting was moderated by Public Safety Director, Daryl Hatcher. Mr. Hatcher opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance.
- Mr. Hatcher advised that OptiCom was being installed in the vehicles now. All ambulances and some response vehicles will be equipped. Installation in all vehicles will be complete within the next few weeks. Mark Cronk with Valley Communications will be contacting each agency to schedule a time to install the internal transmitters on the vehicles. As a reminder to all responders: The Opticom is activated when the red lights on the vehicle are in the "on" position only. When an emergency vehicle with red lights is approaching a traffic light the internal transmitter will activate the traffic light to change allowing the apparatus to proceed through the intersection but it is not instantaneous so the emergency apparatus needs to continue to exercise extreme caution until cleared. Also, lights will be disabled automatically if the vehicle is in the "P" position or if the parking brake is set (Med 10) For more information on the Opticom and how it works contact Mr. Hatcher or Billy Ferguson.

- Mr. Hatcher also advised the group of the priorities for the Board of Supervisors. He indicated that the Board would like to see more stations and emergency medical dispatching. There are no definite timelines on these projects but the Board would like to implement as budget restraints and timeframes allow. For more information regarding this topic, contact Mr. Hatcher.
- Mr. Hatcher acknowledged that there were some problems with the radio system. There are still areas that the radios cannot be heard. Bill Agee is aware of the concerns and is working to find measures to help this situation.
- Mr. Hatcher advised that we needed a Standard Operating Guideline referencing non-emergency 2nd due response areas. If anyone has any ideas, please contact him.
- Division Chief of Operations, Billy Ferguson advised that the re-programming of the radios is going well and he anticipates everything to be completed for all vehicles and portables this month. If your agency is experiencing problems with the programming or if your radios have not been programmed, contact Billy as soon as possible to make sure this is completed.
- Billy advised that in an effort to reduce the number of injuries to our volunteers, an Injury Review Committee will be formed to review our submitted claims. This committee will make safety recommendations and any training recommendations that may be necessary to increase the safety of our responders and decrease the potential for bodily injury. The committee will be: Billy Ferguson, Toby Hodges, Doug Nunn, Jeff Minnix, Darrell Wimmer and Steve Metts.
- An ImageTrend Quality Assessment team is being formed to review all aspects of the new reporting software. The representative from rescue will be Rob Whitener. Also on the committee will be Belinda Hodges and Steve Crook. A representative from the fire departments will also be on the committee. Contact Billy for more information regarding this committee.
- Billy reported that all SCBA compressors, with the exception of Company 9 and Company 10, have had annual maintenance. Company 9 and Company 10 will schedule maintenance for their compressors.
- Billy advised that if any department is having internet related issues to let him know and he will schedule IT (if possible) to repair the concerns.
- Bennie Russell, Fire Marshal, reported that he is working on ISO ratings. He indicated that there are many areas that we can improve on with little or no expense. Please contact Bennie for more information on what your department can do to lower your ISO rating.

Meeting adjourned.



Sept. 15, 2011

Chiefs Meeting Agenda:

- I. **Opticom update**
 1. First due apparatus will be equipped. (Engine/Tanker/brush in urban areas)
 2. Lights will disable automatically in "P" or if parking brake is set. (Med 10)
 3. Lights will need to be tested by volunteer members at off peak traffic times.
- II. **Board Priorities**
 1. Increased support of volunteers.
 - a. Strategic placement of new and refurbished facilities (stations)
 - b. Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)
- III. **Radio System**
 1. Radio system in need of upgrades.
 2. Speak to your BOS member to move the process further in the upcoming CIP budget.